

**Civil Rights Advisory Council**  
January 25, 2007  
Conference Call Meeting Minutes

**Members Present:** Christine Kaufmann (Chair), Dorothy Eck, June Hermanson, Marilyn Kramer, Katie Stevens, Murray Pierce, Jessie James-Hawley

**Staff Present:** Linda Carlson, of the Montana Office of Community Service

**Absent:** None

Christine Kaufmann began the meeting with commitment to scan the current legislative requests bills for those pertaining to civil rights issues and passing them on to the Council. She also announced her appointment to the Senate.

Jessie James-Hawley brought up some concerns about not being able to receive email and television broadcasts. She also raised concerns in what is lacking in Indian health care and prescription medicine services and funding. She mentioned that road signs do not announce the mileage to Reservations. In talking about MLK day she mentioned that the State of Montana would do well to recognize Indian leaders.

**Adopt minutes:** Dorothy Eck stated that she spoke about home visiting not home schooling as stated in the last meeting notes and she went on to describe the programs and how they could be incorporated in mental health issues. The minutes will be edited to state that Dorothy mentioned home visiting programs for at risk families. Christine stated that this is an issue for the Council to consider continuing to work on.

Jesse corrected minutes from the September meeting. As above, she had stated that the State of Montana would do well to recognize Indian leaders. This was not recorded in the September minutes. The September, as well as the November, minutes will be amended.

With those corrections, Marilyn moved to adopt the minutes. Christine seconded and the minutes were passed.

**Universal Declaration of Human Rights:** Dorothy Eck said that it was printed in the Bozeman paper, but no one else knew of anywhere else that it was printed or had seen the press release from the Civil Rights Council. Christine did do a television interview though. The Governor's Office put out two press releases asking people and groups to register their MLK activities on the national website. Some reported that the website didn't work well and that some activities did not get listed. The Council will look into ways to better publicize events in the future which may involve the Montana State website and the State Calendar. The Office of Community Service will follow up. **Linda Carlson asked that each member of the council send her a list of events** that took place in their communities or anywhere so that they can be compiled and added to a list for next year. Include what kind of activities took place and any reviews that are available.

**Meeting Focus:** Which one of the following four proposals would be best to hold three public hearings on in the next year: Poverty and Health Care (Christine), Mental Health Issues for Juvenile Defendants (Murray), Disability Education (June) and Higher Education (Katie). June withdrew her proposal on disability education in favor of the proposal for poverty and overall healthcare. Murray, Katie and Christine presented and summarized their proposals.

Murray went over the crisis's created by placing juveniles with mental health issues in with the general population where their mental health is not treated appropriately or at all. Murray suggested that this might fit in with the broader healthcare issues. Christine responded that it may be better to be more focused on what to ask the public to respond to and that Murray's proposal is very compelling. She asked Murray for suggestions of specific questions that would be asked at a public hearing. His response included: what are the levels of services available in each community, and what services are lacking. Katie's proposal spoke to the high and unaffordable costs of higher education and what should be done by the government to help those students that cannot afford higher education to make sure that there is equal access for all.

Christine spoke to the problems of equal access to health care because of the costs. She stated that she believes that the presidential campaigns will focus very much on the cost of health care issue and that maybe it would be beneficial to hold those hearings in 2008.

Health care is such a huge issue; Christine suggested that to create focus, the Council work on Murray's proposal for three hearings this year. After discussion and comments, Dorothy made a motion that the council do hearings on the Juvenile Defendants proposal this year and to prepare for Christine's health care proposal in 2008. The council voted; Dorothy – yes, Katie – yes, Jessie – yes, Murray – yes, June – abstain, Marylyn – no. Motion passed.

Christine asked Murray to crystallize several questions to be asked at the hearings.

Suggestions for where and when the hearings should be held: Missoula near end of May, Billings during the Governor's Conference in September, and Havre in November.

The next contact will be by email.

Next meeting will be a conference call date to be determined possibly a Tuesday or Thursday in March, 07, @ 4:00p.m.

**Meeting adjourned.**